CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: November 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, George Holt, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle
Alternates Present: Margaret Watkins
MEMBERS ABSENT: Brett St. Clair
Alternates Absent: Matt Lavey

MINUTES: October’s minutes were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

Joe Milano/senior project

Bow High school student, Joe Milano, has decided that he would like to clear a trail in the Kimball Pond Conservation Area for his senior project. The short trail would lead to an existing overlook with a view of the pond. Joe expects to install a sign where the spur intersects the established trail. Commission members approved Joe’s concept.

Interpretive walk update

Dave Butler led a hike into the Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA) on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Approximately 30 people hiked from the pond to several cellar holes along the “old Whipple Road” where Mr. Butler passed out handouts describing the various methods of cutting granite for foundations and steps.

Signage

Thirteen “No motorized vehicles” from Voss Signs were brought in by Ron Jarvis. Line Comeau will be given the invoice and reimbursement will be paid from the conservation fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eversource’s proposed transmission reliability project

Kurt Nelson, an Eversource specialist, and Lee Carbonneau from Normandeau Associates met with the Commission regarding Eversource’s Transmission Right of Way Reliability Project (TRRP) to improve transmission line reliability. Eversource has a right of way along the transmission lines which cross Kimball Pond Road and the northern side of the Botnick property. Most of the property is under a conservation easement. Mr. Nelson stated that Eversource has never cleared the entire width of their right of way on this property but the primary area to be cleared is on the north side of the lines.
Eversource would like to clear an area back 100 feet from each of its outermost conductors. The result would be an impact to about 18 acres. There is no set date for this work to begin at this time.

Mr. Nelson and Ms. Carbonneau informed the Commission that funds are available for mitigation. Mr. Nelson said he wants to give the Commission an opportunity to think about mitigation projects. For a project to qualify for funding it would have to contain a component like the one impacted. In this case that component might be forest preservation. Mitigation funds would be available for only 15% of the acreage impacted (about 1.9 acres) but the scope of the Commission’s project could be much larger.

**Monitoring easements and other conservation land**

*Lots I4-01-02 OA, I4-01-02-OB (Bela Brook Conservation Area)*

George Holt and Margaret Watkins agreed to walk the bounds of these lots that were originally part of the development now known as Overlook Estates. Jacques Belanger has set the corners and marginally flagged the boundaries. The walk is tentatively scheduled for 12/2/2017 at 9:00 AM.

**Easements**

Drew Groves plans to monitor the Taylor easement soon and hopes to also do the Story. Margaret Watkins along with Ron and Darlene Jarvis plan to monitor the Keefe easement on 11/16/2017.

**Kimball Pond dam**

The manner in which the dam functions to maintain the pond’s water level was discussed. Stan Sowle stated that he believes the water level could be lowered slightly and will take steps to do so when there is less volume flowing over the dam.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 13, 2017, 7:30 PM

**AGENDA:**

Boundary marking update (Bela Brook Conservation Area/Overlook Estates) - George
Easement monitoring update - Drew/Margaret
Kimball Pond monitoring - Stan
Kimball Pond snowmobile trail easement - Brett/Drew
Conservation fund balance- Brett
Eversource
2018 “To Do” list

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis